



# *News Release*

## *Dixie National Forest*

**For Immediate Release**  
October 13, 2006

**Contact:** Scott Clemans  
(435) 865-3744  
(928) 643-8172

### **ESCALANTE RANGER DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT FALL PRESCRIBED FIRE**

ESCALANTE, Utah – The Dixie National Forest's Escalante Ranger District is preparing to implement its fall prescribed fire program. The district will treat 500 acres of ponderosa pine with an underburn in the Sweetwater unit of the Pretty Tree Bench project area.

The district's fall burn window is generally between October and December. Fuel, safety and weather conditions could fall within prescribed ranges as early as Monday.

The Sweetwater unit is located along Forest Road 30699, about two and a half miles north of the community of Salt Gulch and about five miles northwest of Boulder Town. Fire managers may close all or parts of Forest Road 30699 and the area immediately surrounding the burn to provide for public and firefighter safety.

The intent of the Pretty Tree Bench project is to restore fire to an ecosystem that has missed recent occurrences of natural fire, which improves forest health, wildlife habitat and range conditions.

The district has treated about 2,200 acres to date of the project's initial 7,000 acres of ponderosa pine. The project also calls for future fire treatments in aspen, mixed conifer, oak, pinyon-juniper and sage.

For more information, visit the Escalante Ranger District office in Escalante, or call (435) 826-5400.

-USFS-